

**MARCH 11, 2026**

# Rotary

## Club of Bettendorf



**Service  
Above  
Self**



### *The meeting began with....*

#### **Opening:**

- Members recited Rotary's Four-Way Test.  
Is it the TRUTH?  
Is it FAIR to all concerned?  
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?  
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
- A patriotic song was sung, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Offerings for a Moment of Silence:**

- SK Nanda - "Our Troops!"
- Fred Anderson - Fred's son's father-in-law experienced a stroke, leaving him partially paralyzed.
- For thoughts we hold in our hearts and world peace

#### **Guest:**

- Jeff Kaczinski, President of the Iowa Quad Cities Rotary Club

### *COMING UP...*

**March 18, 2026**



**Derek Grant  
Bagpipe Musician**



### **Welcome Our Newest Member**

Although he is BRC's newest member, John Gnatovich is not new to Rotary. John comes to BRC after being a Cambridge, IL Rotarian for nearly 40 years.

After 54 years as a dentist, John hung up his drill and now owns G's Gourmet Popcorn in Moline. Welcome John!

**President Penny McGimpsey  
welcomes new member John Gnatovich.**

## Announcements

### • **2nd Pints for Polio Event**

On Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Harrington's Pub will host another event to raise funds for polio eradication, with BRC guest bartenders bringing in tips for the cause. SK Nanda has renewed his challenge for 30 Rotarians and guests to attend, which will result in an additional \$200 from SK.

## Lobsterfest '26

Plans are underway, so let the fun begin! Troy Gutknecht and not-chair Ann Kappeler made the following Lobsterfest-related announcements:

- A *Bourbon Lover's Bouquet* auction item is being developed with a premium bourbon already secured. Additional bottles of bourbon or donations toward more bourbon purchases would be appreciated.
- Bottles of wine are requested for the annual wine pull, or again, donations toward the purchase of wine would also be accepted.
- Over the past several years, the Fund-A-Cause portion of the event has continued to grow. The Lobsterfest committee would like suggestions for this year's Fund-A-Cause recipient organization.
- Suggestions for an appealing raffle item would be helpful.
- PT Boeye is spearheading the silent auction committee and is looking for assistance with data input. This task is made much easier with the help of AI available within the auction software.

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has planned 4 volunteer opportunities to provide a way to introduce people to what Rotary does. Rotarians are encouraged to participate by inviting potential members to one of the volunteer events.

To sign up for these activities, use the QR code here. Questions about the committee's work or volunteer projects can be directed to Beth Clark at [bethcolbyclark@gmail.com](mailto:bethcolbyclark@gmail.com).



Scan this QR Code to sign up!



**Lobsterfest 2026** Rotary Club of Bettendorf  
Shell-abrate 20 years of Lobsterfest!  
Friday, June 12, 2026 WATERFRONT CONVENTION CENTER  
**Save the date!**  
TITLE SPONSORS: TBK BANK, UnityPoint Health Trinity  
For more information or to connect with our sponsor team email: [BettendorfRotary@gmail.com](mailto:BettendorfRotary@gmail.com) | Tickets on sale in April.



Volunteer for one (or more) of these Quad City area events/projects and *bring a guest with you!*

RIVERBEND Food Bank: Tuesday, April 14 or Thursday, April 16

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS: Plant Sale: Tuesday, May 5

RIVER ACTION: Floatzilla: Saturday, August 15

QUAD CITIES ARTS: Festival of the Trees: Saturday, November 21

## Happy Bucks

- **Troy Gutknecht** | Troy was happy to accept Decker's contribution to the bourbon auction item, which Decker said was made in honor of Joe Champion.
- **John Gnatovich** | John was happy to be the newest BRC Rotarian, and he offered a popcorn prize for anyone who could recall what was on the current Rotary magazine cover. Sadly, John did not have to pay up on his challenge.
- **Dean Krause** | Dean's sons participated in a regional science fair and qualified for a national competition.
- **Shawn Langan** | Shawn's son and daughter-in-law are expecting a baby, which will be Shawn's 3<sup>rd</sup> grandchild.
- **Shelly Wells-Cain** | Shelly is also expecting a 3<sup>rd</sup> grandchild, that she already knows is a girl.
- **Decker Ploehn** | Stay informed by reading Decker's PSA below.



Weather-related sirens are sounded for several reason, all of which are established by the National Weather Service. Those reasons are:

- If winds reach 70 miles an hour,
- If a tornado has touched down,
- If the doppler radar confirms a tornado, or
- If a tornado is spotted by a trained spotter.

If any of these conditions occur anywhere in Scott County, the sirens will blow. Decker asked that this information be passed on to others who may be less well informed.



## Well Deserved Recognition

SK Nanda received a Major Donor Crystal from District 6000 Assistant District Governor Pat Olsen, in honor of his generosity to Rotary International.

SK, who also serves as the BRC Foundation Chair, understands that financially supporting Rotary International helps make important projects happen around the world. He sets an outstanding example for the club with his generous contributions to help further the work of Rotary International.

SK is a Paul Harris Fellow, Benefactor, Bequest Society Member, Paul Harris Society, and Major Donor.



An estimated 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation facilities that hygienically separate human excreta from human contact. Rotarians recognized that the schools in Guatemala and neighboring countries needed help in this area.

The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program in schools focuses on providing clean water and sanitation systems, and equipping teachers to educate students on better hygiene practices.

Through the Rotary Club of Valle de Guatemala, conditions for as many as 1,793 children from 10 schools in the town of Escuintla have improved. The project provided toilets, washing stations, and water tanks, and also supported training for teachers so that the facilities would be put to good use.



Support The Rotary Foundation and you support a healthier world. Contact our [Foundation Chair, SK Nanda](#) for more information or visit [The Rotary Foundation website](#).

## *This Week's Program*

### **Pat Olsen: North Scott Rotarian and Past President, District 6000 Assistant District Governor, and Ironman**

Pat Olsen's brother has fought hard to maintain his sobriety for 16 years. Finding inspiration from that, and because he wanted to help his brother attain his dream, Pat joined him in the quest to complete an Ironman triathlon.

An Ironman Triathlon is one of the most demanding endurance events in the world. The event consists of a 2.4 mile swim, and 112 mile bike ride, followed by a 26.2 mile run (a marathon). All this is done in one day.

Pat and his brother participated in the Chattanooga triathlon, which started with a swim in the Tennessee River and ended on a hilly run throughout the area. Although Pat's brother was unable to finish due to a bike accident, Pat triumphantly completed the event in 14 hours and 4 mins.

Training for the Ironman was a test in adhering to a daily routine, which Pat found helpful in other aspects of his life. He also found it helpful to talk to other Ironman athletes and gain insights on their journeys. Pat plans to participate in the Wisconsin Ironman in September 2026.



## ***Guardian of Integrity Award***

Joe Champion's dedicated service to Rotary is just one of the many reasons he was nominated to receive the coveted Guardian of Integrity Award. Joe has taken on leadership roles within the club as a past president, and currently, as an at-large board member. He served on the Grants Committee and volunteers often for other Rotary events.

Hatching the idea of "Acres of Warmth", Joe helped launch an effort that ensures people in the community stay warm. Although he's hesitant to take credit for the effort, Joe is a big reason for its success. He also frequently shares his woodworking skills by crafting items for fundraisers. His compassion and giving spirit is an inspiration for all Rotarians.

Joe will receive his Guardian of Integrity Award at the district's annual conference in May.



Guardian of Integrity Award recipient, Joe Champion, receives applause from his fellow Rotarians.

# Happy **MARCH** Birthday

**4th**

Tracy Naab

**20th**

Craig Wagner

**31st**

Dave Falk

Kevin Koellner

Ron Crist



**17th**

Marcia Erickson



**27th**

Mike Simons

**DON'T EVER ASK  
FOR PERMISSION TO  
BRING A GUEST.**

# Happy BRC Anniversary

**15 Years**

Bill Daley

**4 Years**

Derek Cockrell

**10 Years**

Gwen Tombergs

**3 Years**

Gabe Wells

**7 Years**

Carrie Lamb

**1 Year**

Ryan Thompson



## Club of Bettendorf

### Club Executives

#### President

Penny McGimpsey  
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#### President Elect

Marcia Erickson  
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#### President Nominee/Club Service

Brock Biggerstaff  
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#### Immediate Past President

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#### Directors

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Ann Kappeler  
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Joe Champion  
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#### Youth

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#### Rotary Foundation

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#### Public Image/Social Media

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#### Executive Secretary

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#### Treasurer

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### LOCAL ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS...

#### Monday

12:00pm | Davenport | River Center  
12:00pm | Moline | Trinity Lutheran Church

#### Tuesday

12:00pm | Rock Island | QC Botanical Center

#### Wednesday

12:00pm | Bettendorf | Tanglewood Hills Pavilion  
5:00pm | Davenport | Mini-Meet | Lunardi's

#### Thursday

7:00am | Iowa Quad Cities | J-Bar  
12:00pm | East Moline | Christ United  
Methodist Church  
12:00pm | Milan | Pinnacle Country Club

#### Friday

12:00pm | North Scott | Hilton Garden Inn,  
Bettendorf